

Row of the Month
Row #6 - Courthouse Steps

For Row #6 we are making an old classic, The Courthouse Steps block. The Courthouse Steps block is similar to the incredibly popular Log Cabin quilt block. First, patches are added to opposite sides of a center square. Then, two patches are sewn to the top and bottom of the block. You can continue to build the block out. Courthouse Steps Blocks are straightforward and easy to piece. You may find it a little challenging to keep the block edges straight when stitching the long and thin pieces together. Try to keep your seam allowances as consistent as possible, and square up/tidy the square to size, as you work. OR. I have included the foundation paper piecing pattern. The method you choose is up to you. Have fun!

You will be making Courthouse Steps blocks that will finish at 6" x 6" (which means 6.5" x 6.5" unfinished). You may use either method: traditional piecing, or foundation paper piecing.

Use two contrasting values to create your block. (Value just means how light or dark a fabric appears in comparison to the other fabrics in your block). You can either use two strongly contrasting colors (like white and red), or just light and dark prints.

When printing your templates, please use "Print Actual Size" or 100%.

You will make 7 Courthouse Steps Blocks for this row. So, collect your fabrics and let's have some fun!

Happy Stitching Everyone!
Irene

Method #1: Traditional Piecing

Cutting Instructions:

1. For the Center Squares, either choose 1 fabric for all blocks or several different fabrics. Cut 7 squares at 2" x 2", label this Log #1.
2. For Log Strips: All strips are cut 1.25" wide. The chart below includes the cutting requirements for **ONE** block. You may choose to cut fabric so that all your blocks are identical, or you may choose to go scrappy. It's totally up to you. Tip: you may wish to number the logs as you cut them.

Cutting for **ONE** block:

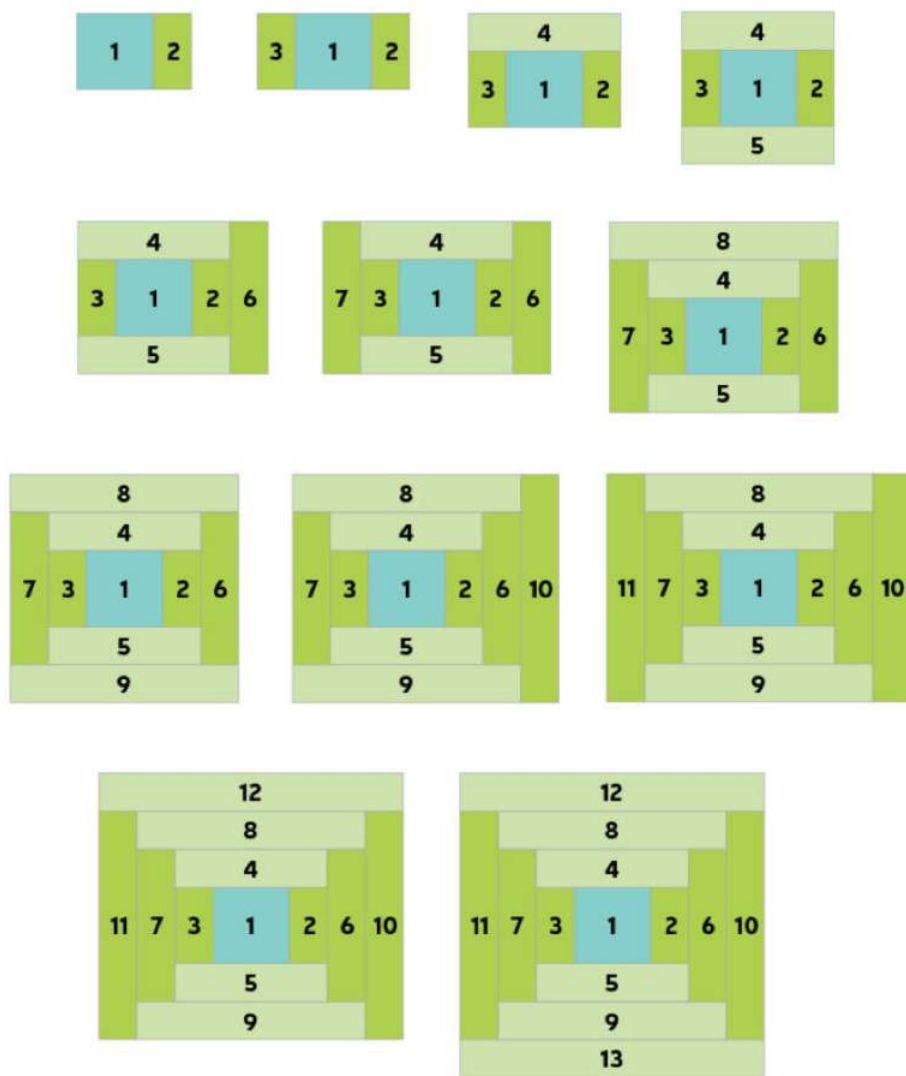
Dark Fabrics		Light Fabrics	
Log #	Cut:	Log #	Cut:
#2 & #3	2 @ 1.25" x 2"	#4 & #5	2 @ 1.25" x 3.5"
#6 & #7	2 @ 1.25" x 3.5"	#8 & #9	2 @ 1.25" x 5"
#10 & #11	2 @ 1.25" x 5"	#12 & #13	2 @ 1.25" x 6.5"



Method #1: Traditional Piecing (continued)

Piecing Instructions:

1. Double check your seam allowance! As each cut strip is added in order, it should be the same length as the unit it is being added to. If it is not the same, please double check the measurement of the sewn 1/4" seam. Make any necessary adjustments to your seam allowance to produce an accurate finished length.
2. Begin with a 2" x 2" center square (#1 in the block illustration below). Sew two Dark Logs (#2 and #3) to either side of the center square. Press both seam allowances outward, towards the new strips you just added. (Tip: During the construction of your block, always press new seams towards the newest strips).
3. Sew Light Logs #4 and #5 to opposite sides of the #2 and #3 strips. Press seams.
4. Sew Dark Latches #6 and #7 to the block next. Press.
5. Continue adding new Logs to opposite sides of the block until you have sewn all Logs.
6. Once all Logs have been joined, your block should measure 6 1/2" x 6 1/2" unfinished.
7. Make a total of 7 blocks.
8. Lining up seams, sew blocks together to make your row. Press seams to one side, or press open, it's up to you! Your row should measure 6.5" x 42.5".



Method #2: Foundation Paper Piecing

Cutting Instructions:

1. For the Center Squares, either choose 1 fabric for all blocks or several different fabrics. Cut 7 squares at 2.5" x 2.5", label this Log #1.
2. For Log Strips: All strips are cut 2.25" wide. The chart below includes the cutting requirements for **ONE** block. I have estimated the size of the pieces to use. If you are comfortable, you can use smaller cut sizes. These sizes are a suggestion and a good place to start. You may choose to cut fabric so that all your blocks are identical, or you may choose to go scrappy. It's totally up to you. Tip: you may wish to number the logs as you cut them.

Cutting for **ONE** block:

Dark Fabrics		Light Fabrics	
Log #	Cut:	Log #	Cut:
#2 & #3	2 @ 2.25" x 3"	#4 & #5	2 @ 2.25" x 4.5"
#6 & #7	2 @ 2.25" x 4.5"	#8 & #9	2 @ 2.25" x 6"
#10 & #11	2 @ 2.25" x 6"	#12 & #13	2 @ 2.25" x 7.5"

Piecing Instructions:

1. Copy the Courthouse Steps pattern page 7 times, making sure that you set your copier to 100% or Actual Size. Ensure you have an accurate 6" block on the copies.
2. For general instructions on Foundation Paper Piecing refer to the following link:
<http://aprilrosenthal.com/2017/09/14/quilting-basics-foundation-paper-piecing-101/>
3. Follow the piecing order on the block pattern. Place the correct fabrics as indicated by the numbers.
4. Once completed, trim each Courthouse Steps block to 6.5" x 6.5". Do not remove the paper foundation.
5. Make 7 blocks.
6. Lining up seams, sew blocks together to make your row. Remove paper. Press seams to one side, or press open, it's up to you! Your row should measure 6.5" x 42.5".

